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INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR - Azerbaydzhan SSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1948

SUBJECT Economic - Plan fulfillment

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 26 May 1949

WHERE PUBLISHED Baku

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 26 Jan 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Russian

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SOURCE Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 17, 1949.

AZERBAJDZHAN REPORTS 1948 INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

M. D. Bagirov, Secretary of the TsK KP(b) Azerbaydzhan, in the auditing report presented at the 17th Party Congress in Azerbaydzhan on 25 January, stated that gross-production output by the republic's industry had increased 16.3 percent in 1947 over 1946 and 15 percent in 1948 over 1947. In 1948 the republic's industry exceeded the 1940 production level.

The 1948 petroleum extraction plan was not fulfilled, because necessary measures were not taken to provide for a sharp increase in petroleum production. The "Leninmefit" and "Artemmefit" Trusts, many oil fields of the "Ordzhonikidzefit" and "Kirovneft" Trusts, drilling offices of the "Buzovnyeft", "Ordzhonikidzefit", "Kazbekovneft", and "Kaganovichneft" Trusts, petroleum refineries imeni Stalin, Andreyev, V. Sturua, and Ismi Badenyi, and the petroleum-machine building plants imeni Shmidt, Kirov, Dzerzhinskiy and many other enterprises of the petroleum industry fulfilled their 1948 plans. "Azneft" (Azerbaijani Petroleum) Association completed only 93.3 percent of the 1948 plan.

The main causes for the failure to complete the plan are the lag in geological prospecting and the lack of skilled personnel to administer the "Azneftazvedka" (Azerbaijani Petroleum Prospecting) Association which was created in the fourth quarter 1947 to step up prospecting of new petroleum deposits. Only 909 of the nonoperating wells instead of the planned 1,500, were put into operation in 1948. The oil refining industry is meeting its plan for gross production, but completed the 1948 plan for only 42 of the 74 types of production. Losses of crude petroleum and petroleum products reached tremendous proportions in the "Azneftzavodiy" (Azerbaijani Petroleum Refineries) System in 1948.

The "Azneftemash" (Azerbaijdzhen Petroleum Machinery) Trust fulfilled the 1948 plan 116.4 percent and achieved the 1950 production level. Twelve of the 16 machine-building plants of the trust fulfilled the year plan and eight achieved the 1950 level. Among them, the plants imeni Beriye, Dzerzhinskiy, the Kisilinskiy Machine-Building and Tool Plant fulfilled the plan for assortment. The machine-tool park of the machine-building plants increased 1.8 times in comparison with the prewar level.

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In 1948 the republic's power industry increased electric power production 33.3 percent over the 1940 level. Expansion of the Sumgait Heat and Power Plant and construction of the Mingechaur GES are not progressing at the required rate of speed. The volume of completed capital construction in the republic was 183.3 percent of 1947, but only 89.9 percent of the construction plan was completed. The republic administration of "Glavneftegazstroy" (Main Administration of the Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises) has consistently failed to fulfill the year plans for construction of chief projects of the petroleum industry. Such large-scale construction organizations as "Zakpromstroy" (Transcaucasus Industrial Construction), "Dachkesanstroy," "Alumini'stroy" (Construction of Aluminum Industry Enterprises) and others, are also failing to meet their plans, with the result that completion of important enterprises has been delayed. One of the chief causes for the lag is the lack of manpower. Directors of construction organizations have not made sufficient effort to organize manpower recruitment and training of skilled personnel.

The 1948 gross-production plan for consumer's goods was fulfilled 101.9 percent, an increase of 16.3 percent in gross production over 1947.

The republic's railroads have fulfilled freight-hauling plans in the postwar period and have hauled 35,186 freight cars above the plan. Hauling of freight by water transport still has not reached the prewar level. The Caspian Fleet and Caspian Tanker Fleet did not fulfill the 1948 plan for hauling petroleum products and dry freight. Ship-repair plants, including those in Baku, have consistently failed to fulfill their plans.

The road network of the republic has been considerably expanded. There are now more than 1,000 kilometers of main-line asphalt roads in the republic. Many large bridges, including the Sal'yanskiy, Geokchayskiy, and others, have been built.

The Azerbaydzhan Office of the State Bank USSR reports the following increase in the annual fund of wages for workers and employees in Azerbaydzhan SSR:

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
<u>Fund of Wages</u>			
In million rubles	3,141.9	3,818.9	3,911.5
Increase in percent	100.0	121.6	124.5

During 1948, trade turnover in the republic increased substantially. The Government allowed 73.7 percent more bread to be sold in 1948 than in 1947; 2.9 times more sugar; 48.6 percent more animal fats; 31.8 percent more cotton, woolen, and silk cloth. Trade and cooperative organizations in the republic have a total of 33,700 workers and employees.

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